

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 13-18 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

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1. (twice amended) A brass alloy, consisting, by weight, essentially of:
from 5% to 25% of zinc;
from 0.3% to 2% nickel;
from 0.15% to 1% tin;
from 0.03% to 0.35% phosphorous with a nickel to phosphorous weight ratio,
Ni:P, of from 3.5:1 to 7.5:1;
less than 0.1%, each, of silicon and beryllium; and
the balance copper and inevitable impurities, said brass alloy having an electrical conductivity in excess of 25% IACS and suitable for forming into an electrical connector.

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to correct two grammatical errors.

Claims 13-18 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 1 has been amended to substantially incorporate the limitations of either claim 13 or claim 14, namely, that the electrical conductivity exceeds 25% IACS and that the claimed brass alloy has utility as an electrical connector.

The Examiner previously requested restriction between the claims of group 1 (claims 1-14) drawn to a copper base alloy product and classified in class 148, subclass 433+ and the claims of group II (claims 15-18) drawn to a process for the manufacture of a copper alloy product and classified in class 148, subclass 554+. The applicants previously elected to prosecute the claims of group I and traversed the restriction requirement. The Examiner has now repeated the restriction requirement and made it Final. Accordingly, applicants cancel claims 15-18 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1, 3 and 6-14 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over JP 5-311 292. Applicants have acquired a translation of the Japanese reference and enclose a copy of that